

Farm animals – selective breeding and management (a)

Photo and matching statements	Mainly due to selective breeding (SB) or management system (MS)?	Welfare issues
Laying hens in conventional battery cages		<p>About 19 million hens live in battery cages in the UK. Conventional battery cages will be banned throughout Europe from 2012. However, it will still be permitted to keep hens in so-called 'enriched' cages, which provide just 50cm² of extra usable space per bird, with limited provisions for a scratching area, nesting area and perches. These facilities still fail to properly cater for the hens' behavioural needs and impose severe restrictions on movement.</p> <p>The RSPCA is calling for all cage systems to be banned and for hens to be kept in well-managed alternative systems, such as barn or free-range.</p>
I may have less floor space than an A4 piece of paper.	MS	
I have no opportunity to lay eggs in a separate nesting area.	MS	
I do not have the opportunity to perch.	MS	
Meat chickens in a standard indoor system		<p>Around 850 million meat chickens are reared in the UK every year. Many are reared in standard indoor systems that fail to properly cater for their welfare, and are 'faster growing' breeds that have been bred to produce meat very quickly.</p> <p>The RSPCA believes all chickens should be reared to higher welfare standards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using genetically slower-growing breeds to help prevent the welfare problems associated with fast growth rates, such as lameness and heart defects • providing sufficient space for chickens to perform active behaviours • providing opportunities to express natural behaviours such as perching, ground pecking and foraging • providing adequate lighting.
I can reach slaughter weight in just 35 days.	SB	
There are so many of us in a shed, it is difficult for me to move around easily.	MS	
Some members of my group may be lame.	SB and MS	
I do not have the opportunity to perch.	MS	

Farm animals – selective breeding and management (b)

Photo and matching statements	Mainly due to selective breeding (SB) or management system (MS)?	Welfare issues
Sheep		<p>Wild, ancestral breeds of sheep tend to shed their wool naturally in the spring. Selective breeding for increased wool growth has meant that many domestic sheep breeds need to be shorn every year, to keep the sheep comfortable and reduce the risk of external parasites. Some lambs have their tails docked at birth, in order to try to reduce the risk of a welfare problem known as 'flystrike', where parasitic flies are attracted to the soiled wool on the back-end of the sheep.</p> <p>Lameness is a common welfare issue, caused by factors such as infectious disease and injury. The risk of lameness can be reduced by good inspection and management of the flock, and prompt and effective treatment of lame animals.</p>
I need to be shorn once a year.	SB	
I may have my tail docked.	SB and MS	
Some members of my group may be lame.	MS	
Sow with piglets		<p>Female wild boar (sows) have an average litter of five piglets. Commercial sows have around 12 piglets, which increases the strain on the mother and the risk of piglets dying. Piglets are removed from their mother at three or four weeks old – much earlier than would occur in nature. The mother is then able to become pregnant again more quickly and produce more piglets per year.</p> <p>Some piglets have their tails docked a few days after birth, in order to try to reduce the risk of tail biting later in life. The risk of tail biting and therefore the need for tail docking can be reduced by providing environmental enrichment (e.g. straw for pigs to root in), giving pigs more space and through good herd management.</p>
On average, I give birth to 11 to 12 offspring per litter.	SB	
<p>I may have my tail docked.</p> <p>I am removed from my mother at three or four weeks old – much earlier than would occur in nature.</p>	MS	

Farm animals – selective breeding and management (c)

Photo and matching statements	Mainly due to selective breeding (SB) or management system (MS)?	Welfare issues
Beef cow		Some continental beef cattle breeds have been bred to be more muscular in order to increase the amount of meat available. A combination of calves growing very large during pregnancy and the mothers having narrow pelvic canals can result in problems giving birth.
I sometimes have problems giving birth as a result of the size of my offspring.	SB	
Dairy cow		The dairy cow has developed into our hardest working farm animal, with some cows able to produce over 45 litres (around 79 pints) of milk per day. The physiological demands involved can result in a number of welfare problems if cows are not carefully managed and kept under higher welfare standards. Lameness can be caused by a number of factors including genetics, inappropriate nutrition and poor housing and environment – prevention is the key.
I may produce more than 45 litres of milk per day.	SB	
Some members of my group may be lame.	SB and MS	
Male (stag) turkey		The average weight of a wild male turkey is around 7.5kg. However, through selective breeding for faster growth rates, a standard male domesticated turkey can reach as much as 25kg in 20 weeks (approximately the weight of a small Labrador) and put on weight at an average of more than 1kg per week. Because the modern-day commercial male turkey is so very large and heavy, natural mating with the female rarely takes place as the male's huge chest prevents him getting close enough to the female who may also be seriously injured, as she is much smaller and lighter.
I can weigh as much as 25kg.	SB	
I can't mate naturally – I can only breed through the use of artificial insemination.	SB	